

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO US CUSTOMS INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY RABAT

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CUSTOMS FOR ALLSHOUSE, WILKINS, COLE, PINTER

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SUBJECT: U.S. CUSTOMS TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA

1. DURING VISIT IN TUNIS OF U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICERS
COLE AND MORSE FEBRUARY 16-17, EMBASSY NARCOTICS
COORDINATOR ACCOMPANIED THEM ON CALLS ON TAHAR BERREDJEB,
DIRECTOR OF POLICE JUDICIAIRE, RE NARCOTICS DOG TRAINER
COURSE AT FRONT ROYAL; AND ON ALI AZOUZ, DIREGN OF
TUNISIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE. FOLLOWING IS FOR THE RECORD
AND FOR ACTION AS INDICATED.

A. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS CLEARED UP FOR BERREDJEB
DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN DOGAHNADLERS AND EXPERIENCED
TRAINERS. BERREDJEB ARRANGED FOR US TO VISIT POLICE
DOG TRAINING FACILITY NEAR TUNIS WHERE PATROL/ATTACK
DOGS AND THEIR HANDLERS ARE TRAINED. FACILITY WAS MOST
IMPRESSIVE, AND IT WAS ENTIRELY CLEAR THAT THE SENIOR
TRAINING OFFICER (WHOM BERREDJEB HAD INTENDED TO SEND
TO COURSE #5) IS FULLY QUALIFIED TO BENEFIT FROM U.S.
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CUSTOMS NARCOTICS DOG TRAINER COURSE. HIGHLY LIKELY

IN OUR OPINION THAT TWO OTHER TRAINERS WHO WORK WITH HIM COULD ALSO MAKE USE OF FRONT ROYAL TRAINING. COLE AND MORSE INFORMED BERREDJEB THAT NEXT AVAILABLE FRONT ROYAL COURSE IS NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL OCTOBER. BERREDJEB SAID HE HOPES BY THEN TO HAVE TWO CANDIDATES READY TO GO. IN RESPONSE HIS QUESTION, WE TOLD BERREDJEB THAT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF NARCOTICS GENERALLY WOULD BE USEFUL TO THESE CANDIDATES BUT NOT ESSENTIAL. HE IS CONSIDERING ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE THE DOG TRAINERS WITH BASIC NARCOTICS TRAINING BEFORE OCTOBER. COLE AND MORSE FENDED OFF TENTATIVE QUESTION RE WILLINGNESS OF U.S. CUSTOMS TO PROVIDE DOGS TO TUNISIANS.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT U.S. CUSTOMS SEND EMBASSY, WHENEVER THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, FIRM SCHEDULE FOR NEXT NARCOTICS DOG TRAINER COURSE FOR WHICH TUNISIANS MAY APPLY, INCLUDING INFORMATION RE ADVANCE CULTURAL ORIENTATION, OTHER NATIONALITIES WHO MAY BE REPRESENTED, AND ANY OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO BERREDJEB AND HIS SENIORS.

B. WITH CUSTOMS DIRGEN AZOUZ, AMERICANS DISCUSSED HIS PROPOSED VIP OBSERVATION VISIT (SEE SEPTEL NOTAL). ALSO DISCUSSED TRAINING PROPOSALS FOR AN IN-COUNTRY, TWO-WEEK CUSTOMS TRAINING TEAM VISIT WHICH AZOUZ HOPES CAN BE CONDUCTED IN SUMMER 1976. AZOUZ IS HAVING LIST OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES (NO MORE THAN THIRTY) PREPARED. HE IS ALSO REVIEWING COURSE CURRICULUM LEFT WITH HIM AND PROPOSES TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH SUGGESTED ALTERATIONS IN CURRICULUM TO SUIT PARTICULAR TUNISIAN NEEDS.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT U.S. CUSTOMS KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED RE POSSIBILITIES FOR SENDING FOUR-MAN TRAINING TEAM WITHIN TIME FRAME OF MAY-SEPTEMBER 1976, BUT HOLD OFF ON FIRM PROPOSAL UNTIL EMBASSY REPORTS FURTHER ON AZOUZ' DESIRES.

C. COLE, MORSE AND EMBOFFS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH AZOUZ POSSIBILITY OF TUNISIAN CANDIDATES FOR MID-MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE IN U.S. COLE INFORMED AZOUZ THAT AN INVITATION FOR SUCH A COURSE WOULD BE PREPARED, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, COLE WOULD SEND AZOUZ, THROUGH THE EMBASSY, FRENCH TRANSLATIONS OF MOST DETAILED POSSIBLE DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULUM OF MID-MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE.

2. COMMENT: COLE AND MORSE VISIT WAS VERY USEFUL EXERCISE, ESPECIALLY IN THAT THEY COULD ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE SPOT WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE TAKE DAYS TO HANDLE

BY CORRESPONDENCE. CONVERSATIONS ENABLED ALL CONCERNED TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THE KINDS OF BACKGROUND AND RANK LEVELS APPROPRIATE TO VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING CANDIDATES. BOTH BERREDJEB, AS SENIOR NARCOTICS-ORIENTED OFFICIAL IN GOT, AND AZOUZ, AS NEW CHIEF OF CUSTOMS SERVICE, REFLECTED HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN TRAINING PROGRAMS AND APPRECIATION FOR USG WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THEM. SEELYE

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